

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

FRANCHISE GROUP, INC. *et al.*,<sup>1</sup>

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-12480 (LSS)

(Jointly Administered)

**Objection Deadline: April 7, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)**

**Hearing Date: To be scheduled by the Court**

**SUMMARY COVER SHEET OF FIRST INTERIM FEE APPLICATION  
OF PERELLA WEINBERG PARTNERS LP FOR ALLOWANCE  
OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE INTERIM  
PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 26, 2024 TO AND INCLUDING JANUARY 31, 2025**

Name of Applicant:

Perella Weinberg Partners LP

Authorized to Provide Professional Services to:

Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors

Date of Retention:

February 12, 2025 *nunc pro tunc* to  
November 26, 2024 [Docket No. 969]

Period for Which Compensation and  
Reimbursement Are Requested:

November 26, 2024 – January 31, 2025

<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy's Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy's Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260), Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123), Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies "Plus", LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors' headquarters is located at 109 Innovation Court, Suite J, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

Amount of Compensation Requested as Actual, \$379,166.67  
Reasonable, and Necessary:

Amount of Expense Reimbursement Requested \$69,934.25  
as Actual, Reasonable, and Necessary:

This is a(n): monthly \_\_\_\_ interim x final application \_\_\_\_

Prior Monthly Fee Applications Filed:

Docket No.	Compensation Period	Requested		Approved	
		Fees	Expenses	Fees	Expenses
Docket No. 1058	November 26, 2024 through December 31, 2024	\$204,166.67	\$43,401.27	Pending	Pending
Docket No. 1118	January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025	\$175,000.00	\$26,532.98	Pending	Pending

**SUMMARY OF INTERIM COMPENSATION AND HOURS BY PROFESSIONAL****SUMMARY OF TIME RECORDS BY PROFESSIONAL  
NOVEMBER 26, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
Bruce Mendelsohn	Partner	37.5
James Wappler	Partner	17.0
Matt Rahmani	Managing Director	45.0
Kendyl Corber	Director	24.0
Bruce Baker	Associate	80.8
Emma Golden	Analyst	24.5
Daniel Augustine	Analyst	71.3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>300.0</b>

**INTERIM EXPENSES BY CATEGORY****SUMMARY OF EXPENSES BY CATEGORY  
NOVEMBER 26, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>
Employee Meals	\$85.07
Employee Travel	\$646.68
Third-Party Legal Fees	\$69,202.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,934.25</b>

**SUMMARY OF INTERIM COMPENSATION BY MATTER CATEGORY**

<b>SUMMARY OF TOTAL FEES BY MATTER CATEGORY FOR PERELLA WEINBERG PARTNERS LP NOVEMBER 26, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025</b>		
<b>Matter Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
General Case Administration	This category includes time spent by PWP communicating and attending meetings with counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the " <u>Committee</u> "), the Committee's financial advisors, and Debtors' management regarding the ongoing Chapter 11 case process and new case developments, as well as associated analysis performed by PWP. This category also includes time spent by PWP preparing and reviewing its retention application and fee statements, as well as	69.0

<b>SUMMARY OF TOTAL FEES BY MATTER CATEGORY FOR PERELLA WEINBERG PARTNERS LP NOVEMBER 26, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025</b>		
<b>Matter Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
	various general administrative tasks.	
Committee Meetings and Discussions and POR and M&A Strategies	This category includes time spent by PWP communicating and attending formal meetings with (a) the Committee and (b) the Committee's financial and legal advisors. In addition, this category includes time spent by PWP on evaluating drafts of a plan of reorganization and the accompanying disclosure statement, and briefing the Committee on analysis performed by PWP regarding these matters. In addition, this category includes time spent by PWP in advising the Committee on a potential sale of all or a portion of the Debtors' assets.	52.0
Debtor Meetings and Discussions	This category includes time spent by PWP communicating and attending meetings with the Debtors and their financial and legal advisors, as well as performing related analyses.	61.5
Creditor Meetings and Discussions	This category includes time spent by PWP communicating and attending meetings with various creditor constituents and their respective financial and legal advisors, as well as performing related analyses.	11.0
Travel	This category includes non-working travel time to Committee meetings or other meetings on the Committee's behalf.	8.0
Due Diligence, Business Plan and Related Analyses	This category includes time spent by PWP in becoming more familiar with the business of the Debtors through management meetings, document review, site visits and analysis. In addition, this category includes time spent by PWP in developing a comprehensive understanding of the industry in which Debtors compete. This category also includes time spent by PWP (a) conducting financial analysis on the Debtors' business plan, including reviewing and analyzing key operational and	83.5

<b>SUMMARY OF TOTAL FEES BY MATTER CATEGORY  FOR PERELLA WEINBERG PARTNERS LP  NOVEMBER 26, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025</b>		
<b>Matter Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>
	financing assumptions in the business plan, (b) assisting the Committee in evaluating the development of alternative business cases for the Debtors, (c) assisting the Committee in evaluating the Debtors' development of a course of action through the Chapter 11 cases and (d) reviewing other relevant financial analyses.	
Valuation Analysis	This category includes time spent by PWP in analyzing the valuation of the Debtors' business.	15.0
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	N/A	300.0

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In re:

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Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-12480 (LSS)

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**Objection Deadline: April 7, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)**

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**FIRST INTERIM FEE APPLICATION OF PERELLA WEINBERG  
PARTNERS LP FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION AND  
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD  
FROM NOVEMBER 26, 2024 TO AND INCLUDING JANUARY 31, 2025**

Perella Weinberg Partners LP (“PWP”), the investment banker for the official committee of unsecured creditors (the “Committee”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “Chapter 11 Cases”) of Franchise Group, Inc. and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “Debtors”), hereby files this interim fee application (this “Application”) for compensation for professional services rendered and expenses incurred for the period from

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<sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of their U.S. federal tax identification numbers, to the extent applicable, are Franchise Group, Inc. (1876), Freedom VCM Holdings, LLC (1225), Freedom VCM Interco Holdings, Inc. (2436), Freedom Receivables II, LLC (4066), Freedom VCM Receivables, Inc. (0028), Freedom VCM Interco, Inc. (3661), Freedom VCM, Inc. (3091), Franchise Group New Holdco, LLC (0444), American Freight FFO, LLC (5743), Franchise Group Acquisition TM LLC (3068), Franchise Group Intermediate Holdco, LLC (1587), Franchise Group Intermediate L, LLC (9486), Franchise Group Newco Intermediate AF, LLC (8288), American Freight Group, LLC (2066), American Freight Holdings, LLC (8271), American Freight, LLC (5940), American Freight Management Company, LLC (1215), Franchise Group Intermediate S, LLC (5408), Franchise Group Newco S, LLC (1814), American Freight Franchising, LLC (1353), Home & Appliance Outlet, LLC (n/a), American Freight Outlet Stores, LLC (9573), American Freight Franchisor, LLC (2123), Franchise Group Intermediate B, LLC (7836), Buddy’s Newco, LLC (5404), Buddy’s Franchising and Licensing LLC (9968), Franchise Group Intermediate V, LLC (5958), Franchise Group Newco V, LLC (9746), Franchise Group Intermediate BHF, LLC (8260), Franchise Group Newco BHF, LLC (4123), Valor Acquisition, LLC (3490), Vitamin Shoppe Industries LLC (3785), Vitamin Shoppe Global, LLC (1168), Vitamin Shoppe Mariner, LLC (6298), Vitamin Shoppe Procurement Services, LLC (8021), Vitamin Shoppe Franchising, LLC (8271), Vitamin Shoppe Florida, LLC (6590), Betancourt Sports Nutrition, LLC (0470), Franchise Group Intermediate PSP, LLC (5965), Franchise Group Newco PSP, LLC (2323), PSP Midco, LLC (6507), Pet Supplies “Plus”, LLC (5852), PSP Group, LLC (5944), PSP Service Newco, LLC (6414), WNW Franchising, LLC (9398), WNW Stores, LLC (n/a), PSP Stores, LLC (9049), PSP Franchising, LLC (4978), PSP Subco, LLC (6489), PSP Distribution, LLC (5242), Franchise Group Intermediate SL, LLC (2695), Franchise Group Newco SL, LLC (7697), and Educate, Inc. (5722). The Debtors’ headquarters is located at 109 Innovation Court, Suite J, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

November 26, 2024 to and including January 31, 2025 (the “Fee Period”). In support of this Application, PWP respectfully represents as follows:

### **JURISDICTION**

1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (this “Court”) has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue for this matter is proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

2. Pursuant to Rule 9013-1(f) of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “Local Rules”), the Committee consents to the entry of a final order by the Court in connection with this Application to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

3. The statutory predicates for the relief sought herein are sections 105(a), 327(a), 328(a), and 1107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, Rules 2014 and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and Local Rules 2014-1 and 2016-1.

### **BACKGROUND**

4. On November 3, 2024 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtors commenced the Chapter 11 Cases by filing voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States

Code (as amended, the “Bankruptcy Code”). The Debtors are operating their businesses as debtors-in-possession pursuant to section 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.<sup>2</sup>

5. On November 19, 2024, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the “U.S. Trustee”) filed a notice [Docket No. 188] appointing the Committee, which is composed of five members.

6. On November 26, 2024, the Committee selected PWP as its investment banker, subject to Court approval. On February 12, 2025, this Court entered the *Order Authorizing the Employment and Retention of Perella Weinberg Partners LP as Investment Banker to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors Effective as of November 26, 2024* [Docket No. 969] (the “Retention Order”).<sup>3</sup>

7. On December 6, 2024, the Court entered the *Order Establishing Procedures for Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses of Estate Professionals* [Docket No. 208].

8. On January 15, 2025, the Court entered the *Order Appointing Fee Examiner and Establishing Procedures for Consideration of Requested Fee Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses* [Docket No. 747], appointing Direct Fee Review LLC as Fee Examiner in the Chapter 11 Cases.

### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

9. By this Application, PWP requests (i) interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered on behalf of the Committee during the Fee Period in the amount of

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<sup>2</sup> A more fulsome description of the Debtors, their businesses, and the facts and circumstances supporting this Application and the Debtors’ Chapter 11 Cases are set forth in greater detail in the *Declaration of David Orlofsky in support of Debtors’ Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Pleadings* [Docket No. 15] (the “First Day Declaration”), incorporated by reference herein.

<sup>3</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Retention Order.



\$379,166.67<sup>4</sup>, and for reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by PWP during the Fee Period in connection with such services in the amount of \$69,934.25, (ii) payment of all unpaid fees and expenses for the Fee Period in the amount of \$449,100.92, and (iii) such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

### **SUMMARY OF SERVICES RENDERED**

10. Attached hereto are the following schedules for compensation sought by PWP for the Fee Period:

**Exhibit A** Summary of Time Detail by Matter Category

**Exhibit B** Summary of Time Detail by Professional

11. **Exhibits A–B** are detailed statements of the time expended and compensation earned by PWP during the Fee Period. PWP’s professionals expended a total of 300.0 hours in connection with these Chapter 11 Cases during the Fee Period. All services for which PWP is requesting compensation were performed for or on behalf of the Committee. The services rendered by PWP during the Fee Period are categorized as set forth in **Exhibits A–B** and in the summary cover sheets prefixed to this Application. The professionals who provided services to the Committee during the Fee Period are also identified in **Exhibits A–B** and in the summary cover sheets.

12. The fees charged by PWP have been billed in accordance with the Retention Order and PWP’s engagement agreement with the Committee (the “**Engagement Agreement**”) and are comparable to those fees charged by PWP for professional services rendered in connection with similar Chapter 11 cases and non-bankruptcy matters. PWP submits that such fees are reasonable

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<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to the terms of PWP’s Engagement Agreement, PWP earned Monthly Fees during the Fee Period as follows: (a) \$204,166.67 for the period of November 26, 2024 through and including December 31, 2024; and (b) \$175,000 for the period of January 1, 2025 through and including January 31, 2025.

based upon the customary compensation charged by similarly skilled practitioners in comparable bankruptcy cases and non-bankruptcy matters in the competitive national investment banking market.

13. There is no agreement or understanding between PWP and any other person, other than partners of the firm, for the sharing of compensation to be received for services rendered in these Chapter 11 Cases.

**ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES**

14. Attached hereto at **Exhibit C** is a schedule for reimbursement of expenses sought by PWP for the Fee Period:

15. PWP incurred certain necessary expenses during the Fee Period for which it is entitled to reimbursement under the terms of its retention. As set forth in greater detail in **Exhibit C**, PWP's total expenses incurred during the Fee Period are \$69,934.25.

**THE REQUESTED COMPENSATION SHOULD BE ALLOWED**

16. The Retention Order approved PWP's compensation under section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, and not subject to the standard of review under section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code as to all parties except the Court and the U.S. Trustee, which retained the right to review PWP's compensation based on the reasonableness standard of section 330. Retention Order, ¶ 3.

17. Section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code provides for the award of compensation to professionals. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 330. Section 330, by its terms, is "subject to" the provisions of section 328 of the Bankruptcy Code. Pursuant to section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, a committee:

[M]ay employ or authorize the employment of a professional person under section 327 . . . of [the Bankruptcy Code] on any reasonable terms and conditions of employment, including on a retainer, on an hourly basis, on a fixed or percentage fee basis, or on a contingent fee basis. Notwithstanding such terms and conditions,

the court may allow compensation different from the compensation provided under such terms and conditions after the conclusion of such employment, if such terms and conditions prove to have been improvident in light of developments not capable of being anticipated at the time of the fixing of such terms and conditions.

11 U.S.C. § 328(a). Accordingly, section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code permits the compensation of professionals, including investment bankers, on flexible terms that reflect the nature of their services and prevailing market conditions for those services.

18. If a court has entered an order authorizing a professional's employment that "expressly and unambiguously state[s] specific terms and conditions (e.g., specific hourly rates or contingency fee arrangements) that are being approved pursuant to the first sentence of Section 328(a)," the court is constrained to apply only the "improvident" standard of section 328(a) in any later review of such professional's requested compensation. *Zolfo, Cooper & Co. v. SunbeamOster Co., Inc.*, 50 F.3d 253, 261 (3d Cir. 1995).

19. Under the section 328(a) standard, a bankruptcy court wishing to render a previously-approved fee arrangement "improvident" must find that there have been "developments not capable of being anticipated at the time of the fixing of the terms and conditions" of the engagement. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 328(a). It is not enough that developments in a case are simply unforeseen. *See In re Barron*, 225 F.3d 583, 585 (5th Cir. 2000).

20. PWP respectfully submits that: (i) its professional services during the Fee Period were necessary and appropriate and substantially benefited the Committee and unsecured creditors in these Chapter 11 Cases; (ii) the compensation requested in this Application is in accordance with the terms of the Engagement Agreement as approved by the Retention Order pursuant to section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code; (iii) the compensation requested is reasonable based on the customary compensation charged by comparably-skilled professionals in comparable bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy matters; (iv) the professional services provided by PWP were

performed within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance, and nature of the Chapter 11 Cases; and (v) no unforeseeable developments have arisen during the Fee Period that would render the approval of PWP's fees to have been "improvident" within the meaning of section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code.

21. Accordingly, PWP requests that the Court approve on interim basis PWP's fees for compensation and reimbursement of expenses in the amounts set forth herein. To the extent that any amounts for fees or expenses related to the Fee Period were not processed prior to the preparation of this Application, PWP reserves the right to request additional compensation for such services and reimbursement of such expenses in a future application.

**CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

22. The undersigned has reviewed the requirements of Local Rule 2016-1 and certifies that, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, this Application complies with the requirements of that Local Rule.

WHEREFORE, PWP requests (i) interim allowance of compensation for professional services rendered on behalf of the Committee during the Fee Period in the amount of \$379,166.67, and for reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by PWP during the Fee Period in connection with such services in the amount of \$69,934.25, (ii) payment of all unpaid fees and expenses for the Fee Period in the amount of \$449,100.92 and (iii) and such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: March 17, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

**PERELLA WEINBERG PARTNERS LP**

*/s/ Bruce Mendelsohn*

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Bruce Mendelsohn

Partner

Perella Weinberg Partners LP